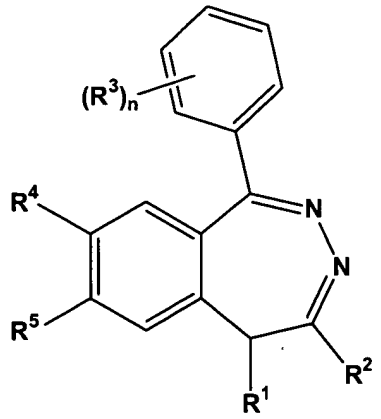
Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an individual afflicted with an inflammatory disorder of epithelial tissue comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of at least one compound according to Formula I:



I

wherein:

said at least one compound according to formula I is an (*R*)-enantiomer substantially free of its corresponding (*S*)-enantiomer, with respect to the absolute configuration at the 5-position of the benzodiazepine ring;

R^1 is -(C_1-C_7)hydrocarbyl or -(C_2-C_6)heteroalkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of –H, and -(C_1-C_7)hydro-carbyl;

wherein R^1 and R^2 may combine to form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring;

R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of –O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -OH, -O-acyl, -SH, –S(C_1-C_3)alkyl, –NH_2, -NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -N((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$, -NH-acyl, -NO_2 and halogen;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of –O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -OH, O-acyl, -SH, –S(C_1-C_3)alkyl, –NH_2, NH-acyl and halogen;

wherein, R^4 and R^5 may combine to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic ring;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of such a compound, wherein said compound is administered at a dose of less than about 50 mg/day.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is administered at a dose of less than about 25 mg/day.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is administered at a dose of less than about 10 mg/day.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is administered at a dose of less than about 1 mg/day.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is administered at a dose of less than about 10 mg/ml.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is administered at a dose of less than about 1mg/ml.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said inflammatory disorder of epithelial tissue is a skin disorder.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said inflammatory disorder of epithelial tissue is a gastrointestinal disorder.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is administered intracolonically or topically.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~claim 16~~, wherein:

R^1 is -(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of –H and -(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of –O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -O-acyl and -OH;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of –O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -O-acyl and -OH, wherein, R^4 and R^5 may combine to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic ring;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of such a compound.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein:

R^1 is $–CH_2CH_3$;

R^2 is $–CH_3$

R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of –OH and –O(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of such a compound.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein:

R^1 is $-CH_2CH_3$;

R^2 is $-CH_3$

R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of –OH and $-OCH_3$;

n is of 1, 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt of such a compound.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

(*R*)-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

(*R*)-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7-hydroxy-8-methoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

(*R*)-1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

(*R*)-1-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

(*R*)-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7-methoxy-8-hydroxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

(*R*)-1-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7-hydroxy-8-methoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

(*R*)-1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7-hydroxy-8-methoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine;

substantially free of the corresponding (*S*)-enantiomers;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the compound is (*R*)-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine ~~substantially free of the corresponding (*S*) enantiomer~~;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.